

Amy Lacy

From: Chelsea Overbeck <chelsea@heyville.co>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Amy Lacy
Subject: Letter of Support for the Ordinance for Historic Preservation

Hello Amy,

Will you please include this in the packet for the upcoming April 11th Town Council meeting?

Councilors,

I support the creation of a Historic District Commission for Zionsville.

This Commission gives Zionsville the opportunity to form protected district(s) to areas that benefit from tools to preserve a neighborhood's character-defining features such as design review and the application of development controls that address compatibility, such as height, scale, and fenestration. By tailoring design restrictions to respond to the specific concerns of a neighborhood, local jurisdictions can protect the special characteristics that a neighborhood or a single site would like to preserve.

A Commission allows for this to be an open process that impacted homeowners can participate in. The Town Council is not being asked at this time to approve any specific regulations for any part of Zionsville. They are being asked to approve the formation of a Commission to take on the process to propose future districts to the Town Council. A Commission that holds monthly public meetings to work with residents to create boundaries, a Preservation Plan, and Design Guidelines specific to the area they wish to protect. This could be an area like the Village, Hunt Club Rd, Trader's Point, or a single-site structure such as an old farmhouse that Zionsville wants to protect. Each of these districts can vary in its regulations and procedures. They could be either a Conservation District (phase 1) or a Historic District (phase 2). Each individual district can create the design guidelines that best fit its needs.

Forming a Commission and creating districts puts the power in the hands of the people of Zionsville, the homeowners impacted by these individual districts. If residents want to petition for a protected district they have the ability to work directly with the Commission. If impacted residents want to end a district they may do so at any time with a 60% majority. If impacted residents want a Conservation District to turn into a Historic District they may allow that to happen. If impacted residents do not want a Conservation District to convert into a Historic District then once again, with a 60% majority, they can determine that.

As the National Trust for Historic Preservation says. Regret only goes one way. There is no chance to renovate or save a historic site once it's gone. And we can never be certain what will be valued in the future. This reality brings to light the importance of saving buildings of historic significance - because once a piece of history is destroyed, it is lost forever.

Thank you,

Chelsea Overbeck
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